

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 05822

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, PINR, ELAB, SS
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: AMBASSADOR TO
INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO) JIMENEZ DE PARGA

1. ON 12 MAY 1978 THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS NAMED
FORMER MINISTER OF LABOR MANUEL JIMENEZ DE PRAGA
AMBASSADOR TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION
(ILO) IN GENEVA, A NEWLY CREATED AMBASSADORIAL POST.

2. JIMENEZ DE PARGA WAS BORN IN GRANADA, APRIL 9, 1929.
AFTER STUDYING LAW IN GRANADA, HE MOVED TO MADDID
IN 1951 WHERE HE RECEIVED HIS DOCTORATE IN 1953. HE
WAS SUCCESSIVELY NAMED PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL
SOCIOLOGY AND PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL LAW AND IN 1957
MOVED TO CATALONIA TO JOIN THE FACULTY OF THE UNIVEESITT
OF BARCELONA. HIS FOREIGN STUDIES INCLUDED STAYS AT
THE UNIVERSITIES OF HEIDELBERG, FRIBOURG, MUNICH AND
PARIS. IN ADDITION TO SERVING AS DEAN OF THE LAW
SCHOOL AND TEMPORARILY (NOV 1976 TO EARLY 1977) HEADING
THE UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA, HE HAS PRACTICED LAW,
WRITTEN FOR THE PRESTIGIOUS BARCELONA NEWSPAPER LA
VANGUARDIA, AND HAS HAD A SYNDICATED COLUMN APPEARING
IN 15 NEWSPAPERS. HE WENT TO THE U.S. ON A LEADER
GRANT IN 1964. HE WAS ELECTED TO THE CORTES (UCD
DEPUTY) IN THE JUNE 1977 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. HE
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IS MARRIED AND HAS SEVEN CHILDREN.

3. WHILE SUCCESSFUL, JIMENEZ DE PARGA HAS ALSO BEEN
CONTROVERSIAL. UNLIKE OTHER OUTSIDERS WHO HAVE MOVED
TO CATALONIA AND BECOME ALMOST MORE CATALAN THAN THE
CATALANS, JIMENEZ DE PARGA DID NOT. THE CONSULATE GENERAL
IN BARCELONA NOTED THAT HE WAS UNPOPULAR WITH CATALAN

NATIONALISTS AND CERTAINLY NOT A TRULY CATALAN SPOKESMAN IN THE CABINET. AS MINISTER OF LABOR HE WAS ALSO A CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE. THE NON-COMMUNIST TRADE UNIONS BLAMED HIM FOR A "PRO-WORKERS COMMISSIONS" TILT AND HE PROVOKED EMPLOYER ELEMENTS WITH SOME REPORTEDLY UNDIPLOMATIC REMARKS ABOUT SPANISH CAPITALISM. AS A RESULT OF THESE AND OTHER CONFRONTATIONS WITH BOTH LABOR AND MANAGEMENT-NOT TO MENTION CRITICISM FROM WITHIN THE CABINET FOR SOME OF HIS STATEMENTS-NO ONE WAS SURPRISED WHEN JIMENEZ DE PARGA WAS REPLACED IN THE CABINET RESHUFFLE WHICH OCCURRED IN FEBRUARY 1978. EMBASSY CONTACTS IN BOTH THE MINISTRIES OF LABOR AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAVE REMARKED THAT THE POST OF AMBASSADOR TO THE ILO WAS CREATED FOR JIMENEZ DE PARGA AND HAS LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE WITH EITHER MINISTRY. IT SEEMS THAT THE POST WAS AS MUCH AS THE GOVERNMENT WAS WILLING TO OFFER HIM FOR HIS PAST SERVICES AND THE LEAST HE COULD ACCEPT. EATON

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